

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02657 111354Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 FBOE-00
A-01 SCS-06 CA-01 SY-05 /099 W
-----070364 111357Z /47

O R 111319Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7939
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2657

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 11, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2585 (DTG 081250Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FRENCH AND SENEGALESE UNIFIL FORCES
REDEPLOYED IN THE TYRE AREA. THERE IS STILL NO CABINET.
A SMALL BOMB WENT OFF NEAR THE KENNEDY CENTER. END
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SUMMARY.

2. REDEPLOYMENT IN TYRE AREA.

ON MAY 10 UNIFIL FORCES IN THE TYRE AREA COMPLETED THEIR
PLANNED REDEPLOYMENT, AS THE FRENCH CONTINGENT TOOK UP
POSITIONS GENERALLY SOUTH OF TYRE, WHILE THE SENEGALESE

CONTINGENT DEPLOYED TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY. FRENCH TROOPS ARE REMAINING IN THE TYRE BARRACKS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, BUT HAVE ENDED THEIR PATROLS IN THE STREETS OF THE CITY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

3. STILL NO CABINET.

A. THREE WEEKS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT A NEW CABINET SINCE SALIM AL-HOSS' GOVERNMENT RESIGNED ON APRIL 19, CAMILLE CHAMOUN CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE MINISTERS BE DRAWN EXCLUSIVELY FROM PARLIAMENT (SEE BEIRUT 2626).

B. ON MAY 10 HOSS MET WITH AL MURABITUN LEADER IBRAHIM QULAYLAT AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL PARTY LEADER WALID JUMBLATT. AFTER THE MEETING, QULAYLAT TOLD EMBOFFS THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON CHOOSING A CABINET. HE ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT PARLIAMENT WAS NO LONGER REPRESENTATIVE AND THAT: "THE STATE MUST CONSULT THE TRUE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY--THE PEOPLE . . . THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WILL STRUGGLE TO ORGANIZE A NATIONAL REFERENDUM, AND THE RESULTS OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL BE THE BASIS ON WHICH ALL NATIONAL ISSUES MUST REST, FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE HIGHEST IN THE LAND."

C. MEANWHILE, RASHID KARAMI CHARGED ON MAY 10 THAT THE LEBANESE FRONT WAS SEEKING TO EXCLUDE HOSS FROM THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND TO ALLOW THE "FAMILY OF 13" WHICH HAD

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DRAFTED THE SIX-POINT PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO TAKE OVER THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

4. SECURITY INCIDENTS.

A. ON MAY 5, LEBANESE POLICE AT THE AIRPORT ARRESTED A WOMAN CARRYING A SWISS PASSPORT WITH EXPLOSIVES IN HER HANDBAG. SHE IS BEING HELD BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES.

B. AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS ON MAY 9 A TWENTY-TWO YEAR OLD AMERICAN STUDENT WAS MURDERED ALONG THE DAMASCUS HIGHWAY, ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS EAST OF BEIRUT (SEPTELS). THE MOTIVES FOR THE KILLING ARE UNKNOWN.

C. AT ABOUT 0100 HOURS ON MAY 10, A SMALL BOMB WENT OFF IN A SCHOOL BUS PARKED NEAR THE USICA KENNEDY CENTER IN THE HAMRA AREA OF WEST BEIRUT (SEPTEL). THE EXPLOSION BROKE WINDOWS IN THE CENTER, BUT CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. LANE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, MOPS, PGOV, CDES, LE, FR, SG
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